

SESSION 1: **SEEING PAST GIANTS**

READING: Numbers 13-14

SUMMARY:

We meet Joshua, an assistant to Moses, elected as one of the 12 scouts to spy out the potential in the Promised Land. He had already proven himself worthy in battle (Ex. 17). God had something greater in mind for His people than the slavery of the past and beyond the giants in front...and for us too!

QUESTIONS:

Who's your favourite movie/book spy?
How do you feel about this year ahead? *excited for new adventures, apprehensive about the unknown, troubled by what is carried over from the last year?*
What does this story teach us about negative comments and gossip?
Have you had to face 'giants' in your life?
Despite the giants in the land, God made it clear that HE was giving them the land, but for some the giants became bigger than the call and promise of God...
How can negativity and giants distract us from God's call and promises for our lives?

APPLICATION:

Read God's promises in the face of your giants!
How can you be more positive and encouraging in your conversations in this week ahead?

SESSION 2: **COURAGE OVER FEAR**

READING: Joshua 1:1-11 & 16-18

SUMMARY:

After Moses' death, God commissions Joshua to lead Israel. God's command is clear: ***be strong and courageous***, rooted in obedience to His Word and confidence in His Presence. In this reading we also find our series title - 'God is with you ***EVERY STEP*** you take'...remind yourself of this in this new year!

QUESTIONS:

There's 100's of recognised fears from arachnophobia to arachibutyrophobia! Fear is sadly commonplace!
Have you ever experienced a time when you needed courage or had any fears?
What could be some of the fears Joshua faced? Can you identify with any?
If you lost '*all fear of man*' - would you do anything different?
Why do you think God repeats '*be strong and courageous*' so often?
God reminds Joshua of many promises in this reading, what are they and how can His promises help us when we are uncertain and afraid?
Read Matt 28:20 - How does Jesus' promise of His Presence encourage you today?

APPLICATION:

Is there a challenging responsibility you could face this week with courage grounded in God's promises?

SESSION 3: **A NEW SEASON**

READING: Joshua 3-4

SUMMARY:

Israel crosses the Jordan River at flood stage, but only after the priests step into the water with the Ark of the Covenant. Humanly it didn't make sense, but God works miracles when His people move forward in faith. *God said 'Tomorrow was going to be a day of great wonders'*...then to Joshua - '*Today I will begin to make you a great leader*'...and then at the collection of the river stones Joshua said '*In the future*'...there's something about our choices and obedience to God in our today's and tomorrows that impact the future too!

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever made a crossing of a river or even the stepping stones at Dovedale?
Have you ever had to act before you felt fully ready?
Why did God wait for the priests to step into the river, with the Ark of the Covenant, before parting it?
What is your earliest memory? What do the memorial stones teach us about remembering God's work?
How can remembering past faithfulness strengthen present faith?

APPLICATION:

Is there a new season or new place that God is calling you in to? Take a small step of obedience where God is prompting you.

SESSION 4: **WALLS FALL DOWN**

READING: Joshua 6

SUMMARY:

The walls of Jericho were an imposing defensive structure, over 28 feet tall in areas and an outer wall over 6 feet thick - there's even archaeological evidence of it's existence that remains today! The walls fall not through military strength but through obedience to God's unusual instructions. Victory comes from trusting God's way, not human strategy.

QUESTIONS

What is the strangest instruction you've been asked to follow?
How did obedience play a role in Israel's victory?
There was a time for silence and a time for shouts - what can we learn from this?
Why is it difficult to trust God's methods when they don't make sense?
Hundreds of years later, Jesus met Zacchaeus in Jericho (Luke 19:1-10) - he'd built a wall between him and his community through greed and corruption...that wall came down in his encounter with the Saviour! Are there any 'walls' that seem insurmountable in your life need God's intervention?

APPLICATION:

Surrender any struggles to God instead of relying on your own plan. Practice obedience even when outcomes are unclear.



SESSION 5: **COST OF COMPROMISE**

READING: Josh 7

SUMMARY:

We see spies sent out on another occasion - to check out the town of Ai. What follows is Israel experiencing a terrible defeat due to disobedience, but restoration comes through repentance. Joshua leads the people back to covenant faithfulness. We're reminded about the destructive nature of greed and lies...there is a cost to compromise that affects others not just ourselves!

QUESTIONS

On a scale of 1-10, how good a spy would you be and why? (*1=terrible, 10 = amazing*)
 What does the story of Achan teach about hidden sin?
 Is there anything that you find challenging in this story?
 How can our disobedience to God impact others?
 How does repentance restore relationship with God?
 Why is daily commitment necessary in our walk with God?
 Read Eph 6:1-17 - how can this help us in our own areas of temptation and sin?

APPLICATION:

Ask God to reveal any areas of compromise.
 Choose one intentional practice that reinforces obedience.

SESSION 6: **WINNING GOD'S WAY**

READING: Josh 10:5-15

SUMMARY:

Joshua faced numerous battles, this one stands out especially as we see God reveal His power and demonstrate again that *'the battle is the Lord's'* - God remains present & powerful in our battles too!

QUESTIONS:

If you had a 30 hour day at your disposal tomorrow, how would you spend it?
 In v12, Joshua prays one of the most outrageous prayers in scripture - where do you think he got the confidence to pray that prayer?
 What answers to prayer, *maybe outrageous ones*, have you received?
 Jesus often used unexpected ways to bring breakthrough for individuals - from making mud to heal a blind man to telling a lame man to stand!
 How have you seen God move in unexpected or unconventional ways in your life?
 The Israelites still had to face the battle, God holds the sun in place, not so they could have a picnic but to finish the fight...What battles have you faced?
 How can we find perseverance for our battles?

APPLICATION:

Is anyone in your group facing a battle right now? We can rush in with our own answers, but trust God, His timing and be confident He hears our prayers!

SESSION 7: **CHOOSE THIS DAY**

READING: Joshua 23-24:31

SUMMARY:

Joshua's life reminds us that faith, courage, obedience & devotion to God shape a legacy that lasts far beyond our lifetime. His legacy is not military success but wholehearted devotion to God. His challenge is to continue to serve God - *finishing well is an important & challenging lesson to learn...*

QUESTIONS:

On a scale of 1-10, how good are you at keeping resolutions? (*1=terrible, 10=amazing*)
 What do you hope people will remember about your life and faith?
 We all have new beginnings and endings, not just to each year...it could be school or college, vocations, locations - how can we *'finish well'*?
 What stands out to you about Joshua's final words?
 Why is intentional choice important in faithfulness?
 How can we help one another finish well?
 Joshua called them to make their choice for God publicly - how can we *'go public'* with our choice to follow Jesus?
 How could Joshua's statement ***'as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord'*** apply for us?

APPLICATION:

What's a step you can take in your faith this year?